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THAT WHITE HOUSE BABY.

It is just plain Francis Bayre—that's
all.

It is not Woodrow Wilson Bayre, nor Francis Woodrow Bayre, but plain Francis Bayre—that is if we have got it all, and there is no intimation that any part of the name has been reserved.

There were enough Woodrow Wilson Bayre already. One cannot tell how many, but almost every day of the presidential campaign, the Democratic candidate got word from some admirer, some unusually zealous Democrat, that a baby had been named for him. Mr. Wilson did not on those occasions say anything about it. He conveyed his thanks and stopped there on account of time. But while it came to his own grandson, the only kind of son the president has and the only one of the kind, he let it be known that president's names are not very good ones to give to babies.

Never a presidential candidate of any party but some babies are named for him. Some parents feel the convenience of a campaign year. It saves them the work of deciding on names. Then there are people who think it will help a baby along to give him the name of a big, or supposedly big man. They think it starts the child with a load of honor. And others take the means of expressing their party enthusiasm. The generations of those who bear candidates' names come along with intervals of four years between.

We have all read of pathetic instances of boys trying to get rid of big names. President Wilson indicated the objection quite precisely when he said that this White House baby might be expected to have troubles enough of his own without taking any burden of name from a grandfather who happens to have been raised to exalted position. The trouble is that the George Washingtons, the Andrew Jacksons, the Ulysses Grants, the Grover Clevelands, the William McKinleys, the Theodore Roosevelts, the William Tafts and the Woodrow Wilsons of common and local life are always being compared with the illustrious originals. A fair proportion stand the comparison very well, but in the cases of many the comparisons cause sadness to the comparers and hence chagrin to the compared, and scarcely anyone who has a great name thrust upon him altogether escapes the wit of his companions or neighbors. In short the private individual with the prominent name becomes at times himself too prominent for his own comfort. For other reasons it is often annoying or embarrassing for a man to be "hooked up" by name, uniquely and at long distance yoked together with somebody else. It is not pleasant for the man who is anxious to make a name for himself.

WHAT A DEMOCRATIC MEASURE HAS DONE.

One of the most embarrassing undertakings for any Republican or Bull Moose to undertake now would be to show that the Democratic measure, the enactment of the federal reserve banking act, was not a measure that has placed the United States in a position where it is paramount and where it is the envy of all other nations. The enactment of the law took us out of the hands of the world to treat us who had been abusing financial control and had saved us from the disastrous results of a great foreign war which is now on, but was only in its inception at the time that the act was passed and the federal reserve system placed in operation.

To more clearly understand the situation it is but necessary to take the words of one of the most scrofulous of the financial upstarts in New York. Referring to the demonstration now being made of what must happen commercially to a neutral nation in time of war, the *Bache Review*, issued by one of New York's big banking companies, says that it is evident each week in the piling up of our excess-of-export figures. The excess for the week ending January 2 was at the rate of \$6,000,000 a day on returns which do not include about 15 per cent of the total.

There is a chance that this average may fall off, and another just as strong that it may materially increase. If the figures were taken for a fiscal

year on the basis of the week indicated, they would give this country an excess of exports over imports of around a billion and a half dollars, or close to a thousand millions more advantage than we have ever enjoyed in the balance of trade.

Attention is directed to symptoms observable that this country is mapping out a position in the world that it has never before occupied. One of them is the \$1,000,000 in gold sent this country by China. Japan has paid this country \$10,000,000 in gold since October for supplies, and the \$15,000,000 for which Russia has given her 30-day paper for acceptance by American bankers and discount in this country, means that the proceeds will be spent in buying American commodities. Here is what the *Bache Review* says about that:

"These are old-fashioned things that we had forgotten in London, but they are new fashioned for New York. We have talked and written for many years about the time when New York would be the financial center of the world. That time has come for us, but we must remember that we cannot make the throne only temporarily. We must make England, whom the world owes \$1,000,000,000, pay interest only for the time being. Later on she will resume her benevolent domination of world finance; it may be a year or two or three, but in the meantime we shall have wonderful opportunity for upbuilding."

"And if we use our opportunities adequately and with judicious ability, we shall retain a substantial increment of the business—that from Germany especially, and probably wholly."

"It is almost startling to think as a demonstration of the futility of independence that it is now within a few months that we have been fitted to assume this great position which has been thrown upon us. For with out the federal system, credits with us would have been all tied up, as they have been for fifty years, and we would have lacked entirely, funds of operation. As it is now, such a catastrophe as the \$4 million Russian loan can be handled, if necessary, without a dollar of cash passing the American banks. Creditizing this Human government and its treasury, we do straight turning over the bills of credit to themselves to the federal Reserve bank, resulting immediate credit therefor at a lower rate. But the bills are as desirable that the banks themselves will probably wish to keep these or to sell them in the little discount market which is already developing. For private short term investment, nothing could be better."

"This is probably only a beginning, as with the enormous facilities of the federal system, the same continuance almost indefinitely, and the same in the other countries will continue to grow."

This method affords also relief to the foreign markets which now, with exchange falling in our favor, will not be compelled to send us gold, thus thickening up disadvantageously to them and to us the world's money markets."

In the face of such splendid results at a time when otherwise we would have been powerless it is no trouble to prove that the Democratic party has enacted some real constructive legislation.

WHEN THERE WAS PEACE BE-TWEEN ENEMIES.

That the soldiers (that is the Germans and English) who are at the front in the great European conflict are not savages or that there is not the lust of hate and blood, is shown by an article which is here reprinted from the English Church Times, a popular English paper. It is as lively and as fully disclosed the feelings of the soldiers at the front, that it is given in its entirety. It is worth reading. It is worth printing—and it is worth serious thought on the part of Ingles and blood brothers. Read it.

Letters from the front inform us that on Christmas Day there was a veritable Truce of God. Toward midnight on Christmas Eve, suddenly and by a common impulse, those who were enemies a moment before were sending each other Christmas greetings across the space between the lines of Germans and English. All through the trenches lay Indians, negroes, Greeks, and others, and English walked up and down together, talking and exchanging gifts as though they were the best of friends. For one short period they helped each other to give decent burial to the slain. In one instance the English chaplain and the German commanding officer were seen taking the gun from the gunner and giving it to the other. The chaplain's vest was a copy of "The Soldier's Prayer," and the commander's was a photograph. He had, it appears, come across a dying English officer who was vainly struggling to take something from his pocket. The German kindly helped him, and what he found was the photograph of the English man's wife. He told before the dying man's eyes until the last breath. Thanks to his goodness and the happy meeting on Christmas Day, the picture is now in the hands of the dead man's friends. A touching incident was added in several instances where men recognized among their German enemy friends former daily fellow travelers by train from Finsbury Park and the like. It is pitiful that in the smoke of midnight fire, to become their blood brothers, we can be thankful to have seen even this small touch of that human kindness that makes the whole world kin."

Their enemy friends," says this English church paper!

Could a phrase be found that, in connection with the touching little story told in the above paragraph, would more truly express the unbearable folly of this heart breaking war?

Not "barbarians," not "bullies," but human and friends.

Not enemies by nature or by reason of any hatred living in one another's hearts, but cousins and comrades, eager rather to do each other

a kindness than to shed each other's blood and orphan each other's children. Returning, "on the stroke of midnight" to their "bloody work" of death and desolation, returning, as the story makes certain, in sorrow and dismay over the monstrous conditions that oblige them to aim their bullets at each other's breasts rather than grasp hands in an enduring friendship.

Black hours, and across the Atlantic where their common kinsmen dwell, the professors in the colleges, the editors at their desks, the lawyers and special pleaders, tradesmen, non-combatants, even the very ministers in their pulpits, might be hurling broadside words of bitter hatred, words that flew nothing but, as if fresh minted in hell itself. But on the battle front, where the flower of the manhood of two great branches of a mighty race stood breast to breast, there was unity, and understanding, and a great regret.

It is an unnatural war, and the fault for its existence, wherever else it may be found, does not lie in the hearts of the men who are fighting it. Because the hearts of the soldiers tell them, in the still, small voice that the roar of the cannon cannot drown, that the exhortations of patriotism cannot silence, that all false teaching and wicked dogma cannot extinguish, that those yonder, at whom they are firing, are not enemies but friends—not barbarians, but brothers.

We of America are far removed, as distance is measured, from the scene of this pitiful tragedy. All of its victims are our friends. It should not be ours to indulge in bitterness, in rancor, in slander, toward any of the combatants. Our task should be either to emulate the manhood and Christian spirit of the cold suffering soldiers who of their own volition declared that Troops of God and by a common impulse sent each other Christmas greetings across the trenches.

OKLAHOMA'S TRAIN ROBBER LESSON.

The need of a press censor in politics is as apparent as there is the need of a censor in literature. Hypocritical people who overlook completely life pictures and fear that the seamy side of life should be depicted on the stage should meet their doom in that direction.

Oklahoma has been experiencing an unusual number of bank robberies here and is getting a lot of unpleasant advertising out of them. It is stated that there have been fifteen robberies of that sort within the last six or ten months.

Speaking of them the other day the bank commissioners of Oklahoma said:

"It seems to me that we are now reaching in a marked degree the point of making heroes of criminals and outlaws, as has been done during the last year or two, on the strength through the press and in the meeting place shows."

At the last state primary a former train robber who had served time for his exploit was a formidable candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor. Al Jennings did not attempt to deny that he had been a train robber. He rather gloried in the fact in view of his reformative and his abandonment of considerable influence as a lawyer and politician. It was to this that the Oklahoma bank commissioners unanimously reflected, although he was discreet enough to make his statement as general as to admit convert it into a placard.

It is easy to conceive that the prominence of Al Jennings in the gubernatorial race in Oklahoma did not do the state any good, either to the maintenance of order and the safety of property at home or among thinking people in other states. Al Jennings would only have stood a ghost of a showing being a candidate for governor in a state in which the direct primary prevails. No one voter would ever have nominated him. Those who can find on other ground upon which to cast at the democratic primary may get a little comfort out of this. The convention is the master of politics.

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